

LAMB DYSENTERY.

T. DALLING, M.R.C.V.S.

Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories.

During the 1927 lambing season prophylactic (*i.e.* toxin-antitoxin mixture made from the same organism of the *B. Welchii* type previously described) was used, and also antitoxin made from the same bacillus. The prophylactic as before was injected into the ewes preferably in the autumn and again immediately before lambing.

Scotland.—In a completely controlled experiment, from inoculated ewes were born 4105 lambs, 36 died of lamb dysentery=0.87 per cent. Controls 2213 lambs, 178 deaths=8.04 per cent.

Serum was given to lambs within the first twelve hours of birth. Scotland : 811 lambs received serum, 2 died=0.24 per cent. The controls received no serum : 929 lambs, 153 died=16.5 per cent. In experiments in Northumberland and Wales, out of 1900 lambs which received serum, 3 died, all of lamb dysentery.

In view of these figures, a causal relationship between the organisms of the *B. Welchii* type used in preparing the vaccine and serum and the disease may be reasonably assumed. Vaccine and serum prepared with this organism alone, without *B. coli*, gave as good results as those in which the combination of the two bacilli was used (see this *Journal*, xxix. 316).



